



Senate Meeting

02/15/21

Virtual

5:15 PM

- I. Call to Order:
- II. Roll Call:
- III. Approval of the Minutes
 - a) Sophia: So moved
 - b) Riley: Seconded
 - c) Approved
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
 - a) Riley: So moved
 - b) Sophia: Seconded
 - c) Discussion:
 - Sierra: Propose a friendly to change where it has Chancellor Bill of Rights to Dare to Divest. And secondly, I think that as a senate, we should change it to election rules and timeline or just election.
 - Riley: Approve
 - Sophie: Approve
 - d) Approved
- V. Guest Speaker: Chancellor Alexander
 - a) ~~Student Bill of Rights~~ Dare to Divest



- We are in difficult times with everything going on and I want to thank you for all of the work you have been doing. We appreciate your willingness to make those adjustments.
 1. We have had the lowest positivity rates during the pandemic and that is due to your work and what you are willing to do to make that happen.
- Despite the pandemic, we have been able to have some very productive conversations.
 1. We have had two meetings for the Dare to Divest issues that have been brought forward. I know that they have come back and reported on those meetings.
 2. I think a lot of the initial questions we got were able to be addressed very quickly. Some things we were able to complete.
 3. During the second meeting we got into more details and things that might take us a little longer to get adjusted or fixed.
 4. The broad categories you know about how we are handling our police.
 - a. I want us to keep having the conversation on the importance of campus safety. WE are investing heavily in support positions to help all of our students, specifically for our students of color.
 - b. We have added a minimum of four positions multicultural positions
 - i. Two new advisors
 - ii. Two new tutors
 5. I know Dr. King is working with many of you on restorative justice.



- a. It is a new way to think about discipline on campus.
 - b. I am very pleased with the progress
6. The compensation issue we have been able to have some gains.
- a. WE have been able to raise the money given out, it is still not as high as we would like it.
 - b. We have a fixed amount of money we can spend so it is like a puzzle for figuring out how to spend it.
 - c. We are working on how we can do that responsibly.
 - i. We were able to get it up to \$12 which is considerably above where we started.
7. We had conversations with marketing about using materials and photos and we want to make sure we are being transparent with those involved in promotional materials.
8. WE have made great work on campus response bias teams.
9. Establishment of additional full time staff.
10. I know we did training for all faculty and staff on inclusivity.
- a. We are going to continue to do this work and a lot of great things are coming from that and we are still finding ways to grow.
 - b. We planned all of this before Dr. King arrived and he has continued to add more layers to it.
11. I think it is important to note that we are putting real resources behind these issues.



- a. I sent an email to the campus last semester about the work we have done.
 - b. UW Systems has been cutting staff and we are not.
 - c. We are taking 1.5 Million dollars to reinvest in the campus.
 - i. We have opened up to the entire faculty and staff a place to propose ideas on how to spend the money.
 - ii. Student Success, Inclusivity, Sustainability, reach out and make connections with the community, Digital Transformation, and Athletic Department/Weidner Center and all of the arts on a path towards sustainability.
- b) Strategic Priorities Feedback
- c) Q&A
- Sierra: You have been going through a lot of rebranding and changing, what do you need from Student Government? Do you want to hear our opinions? Do you want us to have discussions?
 1. I think we are always looking for feedback. I am new as chancellor, so I am learning how to best interact with you. I know we still have a lot of work to do there.
 2. I read your minutes carefully from each meeting and I am very anxious to continue to engage with you all and continue to solve problems.



3. There are some things we are purposefully moving towards. I am glad that you noticed the website has changed and it has changed for good reasons. It is constantly changing, and we are constantly going to be evolving it.
4. I am looking forward to that dialogue and I am looking for best ways for that conduit to happen.
 - a. Dr. King talks to me every week, and I do have a sense of what's going on and working with him to make sure we are getting the communication we need.
- Dr. King: The chancellor did a great job and one of the ways Student Government is getting involved is how we were able to get students on those committees and going to meetings.
 1. That's where your voice will be most effective.
- Dr. Alexander: There is a joke that you probably all know. If you want something to go slowly, ask a university to do it. What we are trying to do is really shift a lot of the culture to put it squarely on how to have our students have the best experience while they are here.
 1. What you are reading is correct. We are really in the process of making sure we are focusing on the experiences you are having and why and making sure we continuing to work on that.
- Jay: You mentioned you wanted to see the student body interacting with athletics more. A lot of students aren't able to see these games since they aren't on TV. IS there a way for students to see these games and interact with the Kress more?



1. This year, I don't know if we will be able to make this happen. It has been a real struggle across the country.
 2. I know that I will be criticized in saying we took too conservative of a stance on how we are dealing with the pandemic.
 3. We are talking about bringing more men's games to the Kress and we are negotiating the contract with the Resch to bring more games.
 4. We are also looking at getting access to ESPN 3 or ESPN+
 5. All of our women's basketball games and volleyball are on campus so we are looking for better ways to get students to attend.
- Sarah: If you have any more comments or questions, please feel free to reach out to Guillermo or I, as well as the Student Gov email or Chancellor Alexander directly.

VI. Reports

a) President:

- Whaddup everybody, my name is Guillermo Gomez, I am the president.
He/Him/His pronouns
- I have a little bit to talk about a little later as well.
- WE have our think tank this Friday
 1. We will be talking about restructuring with the branch campuses
 2. I will relay everything back to you guys and ask for you input.

b) Vice President:

- Hello my name is Sarah Bock, I use she/her pronouns



- I believe there is a another Dare to Divest meeting this Friday
 1. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or Guillermo of Dare to Divest themselves
- I also have been working on student engagement regarding classes.
 1. You might have gotten an email regarding being engaged in classes or not being engaged.
 2. This is a tactic to try and do everything administration can to make sure students are engaged in classes, so we don't end up with a situation similar to last semester.
 3. If you want to be involved, you can talk to me or to Jasmine who is running the Ad Hoc committee.

c) Speaker of the Senate:

- Hi everyone, I am Sierra Miller
- Senators, we are doing our one on ones this week, they will go from Wednesday to Monday
 1. Please sign up if you haven't yet.
- Committee Chairs I haven't heard about meetings yet
 1. Please let me know so I can try and attend meetings for February 15, 2021
- I am one of the co-chairs for the shared committee that is meeting on Friday
 1. I was working with the other co chair on setting up an agenda and I look forward to reporting on that int wo weeks.

d) RHAA:



- Hi my name is Morgan, I am the RHAA president
- This week we are running be kind bingo
 1. If you complete the card you are entered into a drawing for prizes
- Lonely Hearts bingo is Friday
- We are running elections next week during our general assembly
 1. We have a few positions open
- We are working on planning the rest of our programs for the semester and reviewing our by-laws.

e) Student Court:

- I had a student court meeting last week where we finalized our election rule changes and went over the timeline.

f) Advisor:

- Hello everybody
- I am going to maybe steal something from Pri
 1. There is a new group forming on campus
 2. A group of student athletes who are also allies.
- There is a foundations leadership training about inclusivity and diversity that is available April 2nd and 9th
 1. If you are interested in this let me know
- I am part of the committee that is working on the students website.



1. If you haven't seen that website, if you go to the campus website and put slash students.
 2. It is a lot of static links
 - a. GBOSS is on there seventeen times it seems like and Dean of Students Office isn't on there at all.
 3. Once there is a draft, we will bring it back to you
 4. We were also working on a flow chart on how students' complaints flow through the system.
- Early Alerts
 1. Faculty were asked to submit early alerts for students they were concerned about.
 - a. Academically or things outside of the classroom
 - b. Academic Advisors have been reached out and if there still isn't contacted it is being referred to our office to provide students with the help they need.

VII. New Business

- a) Election **Rules and Timeline** (1st Reading) (Jared)
 - To start out, the first changes we made were to the nomination papers. Usually, you need student signatures.
 1. This year we decided to waive the signatures for the senators and half the amount for Presidential ticket and RHAA ticket.
 - Grammatical fixes throughout document.



- Campaign spending section
 1. Grammatical errors
- Campaign Free Zones
 1. Big issue last year
 2. Cleaned up the document a little bit
- Infractions
 1. If a candidate breaks a rule during campaign
 2. Changed it to after a proper investigation
- Major Infraction Side
 1. Compliance with Phoenix Forward Plan (COVID Guidelines)
- Referendums
 1. Signature requirement from 100 down to 50
- Student Body be made aware of all Referendums 10 business days before election
- Declaration of Election Results
 1. Grammatical Change
- Discussion:
 1. Sierra: I am concerned about social distancing and collection of signatures. 50 is still all to and there aren't that many people on campus. You can't really socially distance and get the signatures. I understand why we do it and why we have done it in the past, but I think we should consider a change just for the year.



2. G: I'll mention this quick. We were talking about doing digital signatures too. Getting a survey out and just making sure people have to log in to complete the survey and significantly lowering the count to 20 or 25.
 - a. More to Mark about referendum, we weren't sure where the referendums came from. At some point in my past in student government I remember getting emails about referendums and I didn't know where it came from.
 - b. Mark: First of all, I think it is great you put the 10 days in advance in there. In the past, it has kind of gone two different ways. There are those that are in favor or oppose the referendum and can campaign on it. On the flip side, the court is also responsible for the making the students are aware of it so students can read it. But it would also be good to promote them more.
 - i. List them with the names on the ballot so students can learn more about them.
3. Ted: Back to the signature's thing, I think lowering it to 25 would be feasible but I think 50 would almost be impossible. The only place there is people congregating is half of the phoenix club and the most people ever in there is 3 or 4 people. To reach 50 you would have to be in there all day all week to reach 50.
 - a. 25 is a reasonable number combined with electronic signatures.
4. Emily: I think the online signatures are an interesting idea. I understand with



COVID that everything is crazy. I am just worried they might negate the actual use of signatures because at that point we might as well just get rid of them in general.

- a. There isn't a lot of interaction with Qualtrics surveys, so I think it negates the point of having signatures. So I think we would just get rid of them at that point.
5. Jay: I wanted to add on to what Ted said. There is also no one there in the mornings.
 6. Sierra: Also going on signatures for the future, we talked about how the branch campuses are allowed to run for positions. So I don't know if that is supposed to be in here and how are they supposed to get signatures when they are at a different campus.
 7. Mark: I think Sierra makes an excellent point in how to include the branch campuses. I know that in the past the branch campuses have not been part of the election process for the main campus. That is one of the things I have to talk to who does the voting on how to include them.
 - a. I love that you included compliance with the Phoenix Forward plan.
 - b. I also see Em's point about why we get the signatures. I think during COVID times we need to look even closer at that. In terms of E-signatures I am not sure how we would do that.
 - c. Where do you have these documents saved so we could read through them a little more closely? Can it be added to the teams account.



8. G: I just have two things. The first going of Mark and Sierra's discussion about the branch campuses. I think that is something that is probably going to be updated in the by-laws and we will probably reflect that in the future on election materials. It does talk about requirements for joining student gov.
 - a. Em Zill that was a great point on intention for signatures, being able to talk to people and at that point you are just reach out to people you already know, and the signature count will be redundant and lost it's original purpose. I would be in favor of just removing the signature during covid times. And like everyone else has stated, I don't know if it would be feasible. It would be best to just fully comply with Phoenix forward and not doing anything in person.
9. Sarah: Definitely with the signatures, a big part of that is students like to ask questions. Sometimes that can be really hard to do when you are trying to social distance and also is almost completely impossible to do online unless there was a virtual video chat where people could ask question. I think we need to take a really good look at signatures and if we do want to waive them. IT would make sense to waive them this year with the pandemic.
10. Mark: Thanks to Jared and the court for the work this takes, and it is not easy work to do especially during COVID times.
11. Sierra: If we want to make a change do we just wait for the second reading?
 - a. Sarah: As of now, if someone has a suggestion, we can write the suggestion in green or blue and discuss it during the second reading.



- b. Mark: Sarah you would be correct. We have taken amendments on the first reading but we have also held them until the second. If anyone has anything that is real obvious or glaring that you want to see changed, throw it out there now or just talk to Jared or Court members offline so we can come in with amendments ready for the next meeting so we can be quick and efficient with this process.
12. G: I am not sure what the precedent was before. Do we do friendly for punctuation things? And how does that work for court since they don't have voting powers.
- a. Mark: It can be friendly amendments.
13. Sarah: Do we want to do amendments now or wait two weeks and have time to read over the document. We can do some amendments now with grammar or easier ones that are no brainer, not a lot of discussion.
14. G: I would think it would be easier in general if people had access to this document after this meeting and they were able to go back and see their own things. Right now we might just be scouring through it individually and trying to find things.
15. Sierra: I think the reason we do two readings so we can first hear about it then talk to our constituents which is a little difficult now but we can still talk to our friends or groups. I think for the bigger things but we can approve the friendlies now so it isn't too long next time.
16. Sierra: I currently think we should just remove the signatures entirely for the



semester but that is just my opinion and I want to talk to others about it first.

17. Sarah: So we should amend the signatures but we should wait until the next meeting so we have time to think about it and discuss it, especially since we already have differing opinions on the signatures.

- Sarah: Over the next two weeks please look over the document. Please come prepared because these things can go long so the more prepared the better. Does anyone not agree with waiting until the next meeting to do any amendments?
 1. As a quick reminder, anyone can run. You are encouraged to run. Please tell your friends to run if they are interested or get involved in student government and talk to people about it. The more people who run the more interesting it is.
- Sarah: Any other questions on how this process works?
- Jared: This bullet point is not the correct formatting and it will not go away. I can't get rid of it so when people are going over the document and you can figure out how to get rid of it that would be great.
 1. I think the feedback on the signatures is great. We kind of went into this with wanting to have as much student engagement as possible. It may be COVID but we want students engaged in the election. Reflecting on the current state of the campus, 50 does seem like a stretch.
- Timeline
 1. I put all the pre req dates on top here.
 2. On the 25th of this month, election papers are going to be available.



- a. Supposed to be 28 days ahead of time and it is 49
 3. February 29th referendum questions are due back to the court.
 4. March 5th, the court will approve any referendums.
 5. March 12th, election papers are due.
 6. March 13th, referendum petitions are due
 7. March 25th, candidates are certified.
 - a. The court doesn't send this out, I believe this is Dean of Students office that sends out certification.
 8. March 31st, students will be notified of referendums.
 9. April 14th, starting at 9am is the election
 - a. Closes April 15th at 4:30
 10. April 16th, results.
- Sierra: Do we need to change the timeline a bit because of senate meeting timing?
 1. There is a lot of wiggle room so it shouldn't be too hard to change the dates on here.
 - Mark: I would agree with Sierra that if we are going to publish the papers, we should have the rules. So if it is possible do it after March 1st.
 1. In terms of making students aware of referendum questions, we should probably make an announcement about it so the student body is aware of it.
 - Sarah: If you have any other thoughts feel free to reach out to court and we will talk about it at the next meeting. These materials will be available to you all soon.
 1. Please have questions prepared before the second meeting.



- Mark: How are you having students turn in applications this year? In the past we have allowed them to submit them electronically or turn them in. We could consider opening the door or we push to submit electronically.
 1. I am more than willing to get them all electronically but if their willing to open the door and except paper forms.
 2. Sarah: Create a drop box for paperwork? Then you guys pick them up after hours so you wouldn't have to unlock the door and get them. If it is easier than submitting them electronically.

b) Environmental Affairs Opening – Applications due 02/24 (Guillermo)

- I sent you all an email last week regarding our former environmental affairs chair and how she is no longer in student gov. There should be an email sent out in the next couple of days.
 1. IF you are interested in applying, we encourage you too.
 2. I just posted the application in Canvas under applications and resources.
 - a. If you can't find it, please let me know and I will send it to you.
 3. In the interim, Sarah will take Montana's place.
 - a. She presented at SUFAC last week about the sustainability fund.
 4. We are hoping to have the new chair in position on March 1st.
 - a. Applications are due on the 24th.
- If you have any ideas for the new chair to transition easier please let us know. It can be really hard to start things half way through the semester.
 1. We can create a meeting and come up with ideas for the new chair.



VIII. Standing Committee Reports

a) Academics and Governance:

- I went to the general education counsel and the academic affairs counsel last week.
 1. Gen Ed talked a lot about writing emphasis courses
 2. Academic Counsel talked about changing course numbers
- Our committee meetings will be right after senate meetings
- I am also working on constitutional review meeting times.

b) Environmental Affairs:

- As mentioned, I did present the sustainability fund to SUFAC
 1. For those that don't know, this fund is what paid for the water bottle fillers and also got us the composer. Basically it is a fund that strives towards making campus more friendly.
 2. I advocated for this to continue to be funded.

c) Equity and Diversity:

- Nothing much on my end.
- I will be sending out an email to schedule my committee meetings
- We have another meeting with the Chancellor and vice chancellor on Friday

d) Health and Safety:

- Last week I had a meeting with Chief Jones
 1. Talked about how things are going with the university police.
 2. I asked about health and safety committee



- a. They are not meeting during COVID and the leadership is being transferred over to Scott P from risk management
- I also met with Amy Henniges
 1. She wanted to work with the promotion of love week
 2. She and I talked about doing a misinformation campaign about the covid vaccine and if it would be good to run now or wait to run it when college students are more eligible.
 - a. I said to start it now since a lot of students are pushing for family members to get it now
 - b. Continue to push it throughout.
 - c. Any comments:
 - i. Ted: I don't think there is any reason to wait. I think keeping misinformation spread as little as possible is a good thing.
 - ii. Rachael: I think that would be awesome to get the info out right away, so students feel prepared. Personally, it would be able to share information with grandparents sooner rather than later.
 3. I emailed my senators last week a google form about signing up for meeting times.
 - a. I have only received one response; I need another so we can get the meeting scheduled.
- e) Resources and Outreach:



- I already have my meeting scheduled, we will be meeting this Wednesday
 1. We will continue to talk about what we are going to do with RHAA and signage in the tunnels and around res life.

f) Rec and Athletics:

- I have a meeting with Jeff on Thursday
- I sent an email to my senators last week with a google form and it looks like our meetings will be on Thursday's

g) Union and Dining:

- Given by Reese
- Met with Matt last week
 1. There was a union renovation meeting for student leaders last Friday
 - a. What spaces are you liking and utilizing, what do you need more of, what is un-utilized?
- The Ad Hoc committee of online learning is starting up again so if you want to join please email her

h) SUFAC:

- Last week we talked about the childcare fund and the sustainability fund and the current recommendation is to stay the course on both of those.
 1. It will be voted on Saturday
- We had some student org follow up during the meeting
- As we head into this week, we will have the Campus Life budget, Transit budget,



Pride center budget, and Pep Band budget.

- Tristan and I met with Lisa J, Michael K, and Dr. King and how budgets are going to be presented differently
 1. Big different between capital budgets
 2. It will actually make a big difference

IX. Announcements:

- a) G: Did you know there is an election tomorrow and campus is a polling place.
 - If you are not on campus or you don't know who is on your ballot, you can go to myvote.wi.gov and it will tell you who is on your ballot and any paperwork
- b) G: Check our pogchamps.

X. Adjournment:

- a) Riley: So moved
- b) Sierra: Seconded
- c) Adjourned at 6:46 PM